

Message Text

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EXDIS

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SUBJ: URQUHART'S AUGUST 22 MEETINGS IN BEIRUT AND JERUSALEM

REF: JERUSALEM 2335

1. AS PROMISED, URQUHART AND AIME STOPPED BY BRIEFLY EVENING
AUGUST 22 TO FILL ME IN ON THEIR CONVERSATIONS WITH LEBANESE
AND ISRAELIS EARLIER IN THE DAY.

2. IN BEIRUT, THEY SAW BOUTROS, TUENI, KHOURY AND ABDO.
URQUHART DESCRIBED HIS MEETINGS WITH DAYAN AND WEIZMAN AND
SAID GOI'S DEFINITIVE POSITION WOULD BE CONVEYED AS SOON AS
IT IS RECEIVED FROM WEIZMAN.

3. LEBANESE SEEMED HEARTENDED BY WEIZMAN'S STAND ON MOVE OF
LAF TO TIBNIN. URQUHART HAS IMPRESSION PRESENT COMPANY WILL

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BE LEFT AT KAWKABA AND FEASIBILITY OF MOVING ANOTHER COMPANY
TO TIBNIN WILL BE STUDIED. UNIFIL WILL COME UP WITH A DETAILED
PLAN WHICH WILL BE CHECKED OUT THOROUGHLY WITH LEBANESE AND
ISRAELIS BEFORE ANY MOVEMENT IS INITIATED. WHEN URQUHART
REPEATED WEIZMAN'S WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER WAYS IN WHICH A
SAFE MOVE TO TIBNIN COULD BE ASSURED, KHOURY REMARKD "OR
ELSEWHERE IN THE VICINITY." URQUHART DID NOT REVEAL SARKIS

HAD BEEN ADAMANT IN HIS TALK WITH HIM ON TIBNIN.

4. LEBANESE WERE HOPEFUL ISRAELIS WOULD PRESSURE MILITIA TO PERMIT UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT AND FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT THROUGHOUT THE ENCLAVES. AMONG OTHER THINGS, GOL WANTS UN TO FACILITATE RETURN OF REFUGEES TO SHIA VILLAGES IN THE SOUTH, SOME OF WHICH HAVE BEEN ABANDONED.

5. STATUS OF HADDAD. WHEN URQUHART REPORTED WEIZMAN HAD SAID HE COULD "NOT AFFORD TO SEE HADDAD LOSE HIS NECK," BOURTROS COMMENTED, "I CAN ASSURE YOU WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF HANGING HADDAD."

6. ILMAC. LEBANESE ARE ATTRACTED BY AND AFRAID OF GOI INITIATIVE ON ARMISTICE AGREEMENT. LEBANESE SAID THEY COULD NOT AGREE TO ILMAC MEETING FOR PURPOSE OF REGISTERING RE-ENTRY INTO FORCE OF AA. AS EMBASSY BEIRUT REPORTED, GOL ALSO WORRIED ITS SIDE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO HOLD ITS OWN IN MEETINGS WITH THE ISRAELIS.

7. URQUHART TOLD TUENI ABOUT REMARKS OF LTCOL TEREZIAN REPORTED PARA EIGHT REFTEL. TUENI SIMPLY SHOOK HIS HEAD AND SAID HE WOULD HAVE MATTER LOOKED INTO.

8. ON HIS RETURN TO JERUSALEM IN LATE AFTERNOON, URQUHART BRIEFED MFA DIRGEN EVRON ON HIS BEIRUT DISCUSSIONS. URQUHART
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CONCENTRATED ON WHAT HE HAD TOLD LEBANESE CONCERNING HOPED FOR GOI ASSISTANCE TO PERMIT UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT THROUGHOUT THE SOUTH AND FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT. HE ALSO REPORTED DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE GOL DECISION MOVE LAF UNIT TO TIBNIN. ONE PURPOSE OF BRIEFING WAS TO MAKE CERTAIN FOREIGN MINISTRY KNEW UN VERSION OF AUGUST 21 DISCUSSION WITH WEIZMAN.

10. NEXT STEP WILL BE TO RECIEVE WEIZMAN'S RESPONSE. IF IT IS SOMETHING LESS THAN SATISFACTORY, AS URQUHART ANTICIPATES, HE WOULD APPRECIATE US HELP WITH WEIZMAN. URQUHART SETS GREAT STORE ON UN ACCESS TO SHIA VILLAGES. I ADVISED HIM IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH ISRAELIS TO STRESS PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND NOT TO HIGHLIGHT THIS PARTICULAR PROBLEM FACING GOL AND UN.

11. COMMENT: FINAL ASSESSMENT OF URQUHART'S TRIP WILL DEPEND ON WHETHER UNIFIL ABLE TO DEPLOY AND ENJOY FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT IN ENCLAVES. FROM HIS ACCOUNT, HIS VISIT WAS WELCOMED BY LEBANON AND IN ISRAEL THE DISCUSSIONS WERE BUSINESSLIKE AND FRANK. URQUHART CERTAINLY LEAVES WITH A BETTER FEEL FOR THE SITUATION IN BEIRUT, SOUTH LEBANON AND ISRAEL. CONCERNING THE SO-CALLED SYRIAN PLOT, URQUHART COMMENTED THAT WHETHER

THERE WAS ANY TRUTH TO IT OR NOT, IT WAS WHAT THE ISRAELIS
BELIEVED AND THIS FACT MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.
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